ULTRA-COARSE, MONOCRYSTALLINE TUNGSTEN CARBIDE AND A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION THEREOF, <u>AND HARDMETAL PRODUCED THEREFROM</u>

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process is described for the preparation of tungsten and/or molybdenum metal powder or carbide by reducing and optionally carburizing treatment of tungsten and/or molybdenum oxide powder in the presence of alkali metal compounds, wherein at least two alkali metal compounds are used in a ratio so that mixed alkali tungstate or molybdate potentially formed in an intermediate step ((Li, Na, K)₂ WO_z, (Li, Na, K)₂MoO_z) has a melting point of less than 550°C, wherein z is from 3 to 4.